

The Library Assistant

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS
(SECTION OF THE LIBRARY
:: :: ASSOCIATION) :: ::

HON. EDITOR: A. C. JONES
WARRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Vol. XLV, No. 2
February, 1952

ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS

(Section of the Library Association).

INAUGURAL MEETING, 1952.

PROFESSOR V. H. GALBRAITH, M.A., F.B.A.,
*Regius Professor of Modern History, University of Oxford,
former Lecturer in Palaeography and Archives, School of
Librarianship, London,*

WILL SPEAK AT

CHAUCER HOUSE, MALET PLACE,

ON

THURSDAY, 6TH MARCH,

AT 7.30 P.M.

Past and present members of the Association are invited to attend.

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Council Notes

THE new President (F. A. Sharr, Esq., B.A., F.L.A.) was unable to be present at the first meeting of the A.A.L. Council on January 10th, and the Council's first action was to send him an expression of their best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery from his illness. Also before proceeding to business, the Council stood in silence on being informed of the death in an accident on the previous day of Miss D. L. Atkins, B.A., F.L.A., Editor of the London Union Catalogue.

The first meeting in a new year does not conform to the usual pattern of having Committees in the morning and Council in the afternoon. Council meets first, appoints officers and Committees, adjourns for the committees to meet, and then re-assembles to consider their recommendations.

Officers of the Council were re-elected and Committees formed. They in turn elected their Chairmen: Messrs. Howes (Press and Publications), Ferry (Education and Library) and Shaw (Finance and General Purposes). Because of the importance and general interest of the items on its agenda Council decided that the Service and Conditions Committee should be the whole Council in committee. The report on welfare and working conditions is now nearing completion and together with a periodic examination of the application of the N.J.C. award will provide sufficient work for a year.

One of the first things to come under fire in 1952 was the syllabus for the L.A. Entrance Examination, if not the examination itself. After discussion in the Education Committee a resolution was accepted by Council for transmission to the Library Association.

The proposed new scale of subscriptions to the Library Association then came under review. This did not come as a surprise to the A.A.L. Council, who less than two years ago expressed concern on L.A. finances only to be told, in effect, to mind their own business (which under equally difficult circumstances they can claim to have done very well). Now, after L.A. reserves have been further depleted, comes this delayed action.

The A.A.L. representative on the L.A. Finance Committee was called upon to explain several items not made clear in the last available balance sheet, and was closely questioned on the possibility of economy in expenditure as an alternative to, or in partnership with increased subscriptions. The part played by the A.A.L. representatives in the scaling down of the proposed rates was explained, and the Council's attention drawn to an important change in the structure of the proposed scale which spreads more evenly the liability to pay. (At present everyone receiving more than £375 per annum pays at the full rate).

The A.A.L.'s own finances are causing grave concern. The increased cost of printing, particularly, is making itself felt—in the cost of the *Library Assistant*, publications and routine stationery. The size of the Council has already been reduced and, subject to reconsideration, the number of Council meetings will be reduced from five to four. The only alternative seems to be to make Divisions even poorer relations of Branches. Correspondence courses and publications are self-supporting, but other activities and expenses have to be met from an unchanging capitation payment from the Library Association.

Several new members made contributions to the debates. There are now

A.A.L. PUBLICATIONS

A Primer of Assistance to Readers

by P. Hepworth. 1951. 8s. 6d. (7s. to members).

"The student with a well-planned guide like that which Mr. Hepworth now offers, is in the position to tackle his studies systematically, and to work through his source material in a way which is the most economical in time and brings with it the greatest results. No matter how large or small the library may be in which the assistant works, he will find this new addition to the *A.A.L. Primers* a godsend."

Librarian and Book World.

"The revision hints, and the author's cold clinical approach to the examination ordeal are the highlights of a most worthy addition to an illustrious series."

Library Association Record.

A Primer of Book Classification

by W. H. Phillips. 3rd ed., 1951. 8s. 6d. (7s. to members).

"This third edition of the Primer will be absolutely essential to all students of book classification . . . Mr. Phillips . . . is first to be congratulated upon having contrived to include a special chapter on Standard DC . . . A toothcomb comparison of this with the previous edition shows that the chapters on LC, UDC and Bliss have been thoroughly revised and brought up-to-date, the section on practical aspects has been expanded, descriptions of Stewart's *Tabulation*, Raymond Smith's scheme for London literature, as well as other special classifications, have been included, while the chapter on Colon has been rewritten by B. I. Palmer . . ."

Librarian and Book World.

***The A.A.L. Guide* TO PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS**

edited by A. J. Walford. v.1.

Entrance and Registration Examinations. 1950. 5s. 6d. (4s. 6d. to members).

The Library Association syllabus is outlined, and full guidance is given on such matters as alternative methods of study, text-books, aids to study, note-taking, revision of notes and examination technique. A suggested method of approach to all parts of the examinations, with recommended reading lists in each section, complete this indispensable student's companion.

Obtainable from

THE HON. PUBLICATIONS OFFICER,
F. D. COLE, F.L.A.,
CENTRAL LIBRARY, PORCHESTER ROAD,
LONDON, W.2.

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several members, new and old, who would impress, improve and enliven "another place." There are (no names) experts of the logical approach, the lightning thrust, the sage correction, the deliberate failure to understand, the unofficial remembrancer, and others who, displaying the additional essentials of enthusiasm and sincerity, combine to indicate that the A.A.L. Council for 1952 will be worthy of its predecessors.

It was strange, and perhaps not yet believed, that Eric Clough was no longer a member of Council. One Divisional Representative indicated that his Division was considering a motion which would in future ensure that an immediate Past-President would remain on the Council for one year. Council seemed reluctant to express an opinion on this suggestion without notice—but they obviously had very decided views against *all* past-Presidents being automatically members of Council: not that anyone of course had suggested that.

W.T.

ELECTION OF NATIONAL COUNCILLORS FOR 1952.

The Scrutineers have declared that

W. H. PHILLIPS
F. C. TIGHE
A. LI. CARVER
E. F. WRAGG
E. J. WILLSON
O. S. TOMLINSON

were elected to serve as National Councillors of the A.A.L. for 1952.

SUMMARY OF VOTES CAST

Candidate.	Votes.
CARVER, A. LI.	1,309
ENSER, A. G. S.	846
PARSONAGE, J. S.	841
PHILLIPS, W. HOWARD	1,650
SHEPHERD, C. F.	641
STOCKHAM, K. A.	698
TIGHE, F. C.	1,432
TOMLINSON, O. S.	953
WILLSON, E. J.	1,211
WILSON, A.	812
WRAGG, E. F.	1,251

Total papers received 2374, of which 51 were invalid and 5 spoilt.

W. TYNEMOUTH,
Honorary Secretary.

ANNUAL WEEK-END CONFERENCE, 1952

As already announced, this year's Conference will be held at Redland Training College, Bristol, on 18th-20th April. Full details, together with an application form, will be found in the leaflet enclosed with this issue. Make sure of your place by booking immediately.

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A.A.L. Correspondence Courses

STUDENTS are reminded that completed application forms, together with the appropriate fees, for the courses beginning in March and April, must reach Mrs. L. Martin, Carnegie Library, Herne Hill Road, London, S.E.24, on or before February 28th, after which date no application will be considered. Earlier receipt is advisable and would be greatly appreciated.

Full particulars of the courses offered are given in the *Students' Handbook* for 1952.

Special attention is drawn to the introduction of two new courses, covering the Registration D (viib), Literature of Science, and D (viic) Literature of Social and Political Ideas, sections of the syllabus.

The December Examinations (continued)

REGISTRATION: Classification.

By A. J. WALFORD

This well-balanced paper shows a definite trend away from questions on logical rules and the Dewey Classification, and towards the Bliss scheme in particular.

Q.1, "*Describe the problems that the publication of a revised edition of a classification scheme creates for classifiers and state how they may be solved,*" tempts the unwary student to think only in terms of the 15th edition of Dewey. This new edition of Dewey is not relevant in all respects to the discussion. In general, a revised edition involves some re-allocation of notation, extensions of schedules and notation, provision for new subjects, modernisation of terminology, and even—as in the 1948 abridged edition of U.D.C.—some new ideas. The classifier can hardly have avoided anticipating some of the new placings; he will also have made a number of independent decisions. The value of keeping as closely as possible to the official schedules (as in the Glasgow *Union list*) is not to be lightly discounted; but some compromises are inevitable, especially if they involve extensive altering of notation for doubtful benefits. Editors of revised editions are usually wise enough to allow some alternative locations and arrangements, giving some measure of autonomy to the classifier.

The definition of *alternative locations, systematic schedules, and alphabetical order in a classification scheme* is not a difficult matter. But Q.3 goes further: it asks the candidate to *estimate their value*. The special librarian is certainly appreciative of Bliss's alternative locations for some of the applied sciences, for "home" literature, etc. The systematic auxiliary schedules of Bliss (as one example only) provide a compromise between the "overall" coverage of Brown's Categorical Tables and Dewey's provisions. Library of Congress uses A—Z order, on the whole, with caution, usually as a form of *final* division, whereas Cutter, in his Law and Literature classes, gives such order a high and unnatural priority. Later schemes have not been slow to realise the value of A—Z order, within limits, to users and staff alike.

Q.4 asks for an account of Bliss's views on the relations of classification to subject headings. This is dealt with in Chapter VIII of *The organization*

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of knowledge in libraries. Bliss is particularly severe on Dewey and Brown by reason of the "subject index illusion." The implication of the question becomes clearer when we recall that for Bliss the subject catalogue means the dictionary catalogue. The limitations of the latter to the user and the researcher, as compared with classified order of books on the shelves, are obvious. Bliss elsewhere accused Brown of treating subjects in his classification as separate entities, again on the analogy of the alphabetical subject catalogue.

Five pros and cons of classification in large, closed-access, book stacks. (Q.5):

Pros

All material on one subject more or less in one place and related subjects adjacent to each other.

Minute topic division.

If departmental, the classification can be related to other departments.

Staff think in terms of subjects when the stock is very large; if a specified book is out, another one, adjacent, may do as well.

The usual reasons why libraries adopt classification.

Cons

Different sizes and shapes of material; therefore a number of sequences.

Less easy to find individual items.

Lengthy notation.

The best arrangement is that which makes most used or most recent material the most accessible.

Room has to be left on shelves for expansion at every point; why not accession order?

I am lost in admiration over the ingenuity of Q.6: "*Assume that your library is classified by (a) Decimal, (b) Universal Decimal, or (c) Congress, and that an assistant has been appointed who is used to working with the Subject Classification. Explain your scheme to him, pointing out major differences and pitfalls he may encounter.*" One accustomed to Brown's subject association (especially in B—D), Generalia coverage, and Categorical Tables certainly has something to unlearn. The schedules and tables of the other schemes will, presumably, be the great stumbling block, although the manipulation of the notation of Dewey, U.D.C. and Congress requires care. Congress has sufficient similarity in its basic notation to make a comparison with Brown interesting and rewarding.

Q.8 required a comparative study of the interpretation and arrangement of either music or astronomy or literature in one of the major schemes. Literature was, no doubt, the popular choice, and the Bliss and Congress treatment should have figured prominently. "Interpretation" needs to be handled carefully, for Literature, in the Congress sense, includes authorship, the theatre, journalism, and the periodical press, as well as the appropriate biographies.

Practical Classification.

1. 714.33 2. 526.9 3. 294.1 4. 136.7354 5. 659.134

REGISTRATION: Practical Cataloguing.

By F. C. KENNERLEY

Not a difficult paper. The only awkward question was No. 3.

Q.1. Main entry: 714.33 Perry, Frances. The imprint should read London, W.H. & L. Collingridge limited; New York, Transatlantic arts

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incorporated, 1951. Added entry: 635.9674 or a *see also* reference from there in the main classified file. Author index: Perry, Frances. Subject index: Garden pools; Garden ponds; Ponds, Garden; Pools, Garden; (all indexed to 714.33); Gardening, Landscape; Landscape gardening (both indexed to 710); Plants, Aquatic; Aquatic plants; Water gardens (all indexed to 635.9674).

Q.2. Main entry: 526.9 Reece, Noel Lees. Dates should be [194-?]. Author index: Reece. Subject index: Surveying 526.9; Levelling 526.9; Geodesy 526.

Q.3. Main entry: 294.1 Vedas. *Upanishads* (or 294.1 Upanishads). *See also* reference from 891.2 (or added entry there) in the main classified file. Author index: As for main entry; also for translator and commentator; *see* reference from Upanishads. Subject index: Vedas 294.1; Upanishads 294.1; Hindu religion 294.1; Sanskrit literature 891.2. (The Upanishads are not the subject of this book but entries are still needed in the subject index).

Q.4. Main entry: Chicago. University. *Committee on human development*. Added entries: for the two editors Havighurst & Taba and for Taba as joint editor. *See* references from University of Chicago, and from Committee on human development. Subject entry: Adolescence. *See also* references from Child Study; and Youth; also from Psychology to Child study.

Q.5. Main entry: Larwood, Jacob, and Hotten, John Camden. "History of signboards" should be included in the heading. Date is [c. 1951]. Added entry: Hotten, John Camden, *joint author*. Analytical author entry: Millar, Gerald. Subject entry: Signs and signboards. *See also* references from Advertising; and Sign painting. *See* reference from Sign boards.

REGISTRATION: Cataloguing.

By F. C. KENNERLEY

Apart from one or two ambiguities this was a fair and satisfactory paper. Q.1, *the chief milestones in the history of library cataloguing*, probably surprised some candidates but was a good question. The difficulty lay in deciding what to omit. Mention should have been made of outstanding cataloguing codes, not forgetting the new American ones; printed catalogues significant for their influence, such as the A.L.A. Catalogues; centralized cataloguing schemes, again not forgetting recent examples; co-operative cataloguing examples, such as the union catalogues of the Regional Bureaux; and printed lists of subject headings such as the library of Congress and Sears.

No comment is needed on Q.2 (*B.M. Rules: history and description*). Q.3, *the difference between subject headings and subject index entries*, covered fundamental points of the dictionary and classified catalogues. This is a stock question and is likely to remain so. Students should make sure that they are absolutely clear on these two methods.

In Q.4 one does agree that "*the printed index to a classification scheme is unsuitable as a public subject index to a classified catalogue*." The printed index must be out of date, cannot correspond to the stock of the library, and is inflexible. In making a satisfactory alternative, consult the printed index to the scheme, together with any other available guide (e.g.,

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the Glasgow printed catalogues). A copy should be kept on cards of all entries made, and a file of class marks maintained showing all index entries made for each number.

The first part of Q.5 (*What is "unit-card" cataloguing?*) is straightforward, but the latter part is complicated by loose wording. "Given . . . unit cards . . . how far and in which instances would you use "double entry" in preference to references or added entries." Abbreviated added entries are obviously meant, since any entry other than the main entry is an added entry whether it is a duplicate of the main entry or not. Double entry can be used for all those subordinate names connected with the writing of a book, i.e., joint authors, editors, translators, etc. Whether it should be used in all these cases is another matter, as the catalogue would expand very rapidly. One reference can take the place of many added entries.

The first part of Q.6 (*the order of the A.A. Code full collation*) and Q.9 (*A.A. Code rules concerning initial capital letters*) emphasize the need for a thorough knowledge of the Code for this Theory paper. The latter part of Q.6 (*the possible modifications of the collation for various library departments*) called for an understanding of selective and simplified cataloguing. Q.8 also dealt with selective cataloguing.

Q.7 (*on union catalogues of Regional Library Bureaux*) was straightforward enough but may have surprised some students. Questions are frequently asked on topics such as this which are not mentioned in the syllabus.

Suggested answers for Q.10:—

Subject Heading	"See Also" References from	"See" References from
(a) Story-telling		Stories
(b) Mohammedanism	Religions	1. Muslims. 2. Moslems
(c) Atomic energy	1. Atomic theory 2. Nuclear physics	
(d) Printing	Book industries and trade	
(This title is very ambiguous. It is assumed that the subject is the scientific background of printing).		
(e) Dreams	1. Psychology, Physiological 2. Sleep	
(f) Cocker spaniels	1. Spaniels. 2. Dogs.	
(g) Capitalism	1. Capital. 2. Economics	
(h) Fashion	1. Costume. 2. Clothing and dress.	
(j) Criminal investigation	1. Detectives. 2. Police.	
(k) Electric machinery	Machinery	
—Alternating current.		

REGISTRATION: Bibliography and Documentary Reproduction.

By P. HEPWORTH

Faced with the choice of waving sufficiently eloquent on at least Caxton, Wynkyn de Worde and the Schoolmaster printer (Q.1, *Write briefly on the history of printing in this country to the end of the 15th century*), the average student would probably turn in despair to anatomising a 16th century book (Q.2, "But if we make it our rule to follow the printer step by step in his work, considering at every point what would be the most convenient

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thing for him to do . . . we shall seldom go far wrong."—McKerrow. Relate this advice to the task of collating a 16th century book which you wish to describe bibliographically). The quotation is from page 159 of McKerrow's *Introduction to Bibliography*, and refers to printing of preliminaries and other points in collation. "Causes" of deterioration of leather (Q.6) was fully treated by R. Faraday Innes in *L.A.R.*, December, 1950; the older R.S.A. and L.A. reports (1905 and 1906) are still valuable, but scarcely "recent." "Prevention" should evoke the British Museum dressing (Plenderleith: *Preservation of leather bookbindings*, 1947). For those who could not see, or overlooked this, there is material in Esdaile: *The British Museum library*, 1946, p.338.

Q.8 (*reproducing a thesis*) and Q.10 (*L.A. report on paper*) call for up-to-date comment on ageing works. Desborough gives good detail for Q.8 and I would select a stencil (Roneo), hektograph (Banda) and contact methods (Copycat)—full marks would not, I suggest, be given for lithography (Rotaprint), photostat, microfilm or Replika. A file of appropriate trade catalogues would help here. The L.A.'s report (Q.10) obviously needs reconsideration in the light of current paper and building shortages and costs. The repercussions of microcard and microfilm on the whole question must be discussed. Photogravure rather than collotype would give the richness and depth of mezzotint (Q.4); offset lithography is too flat. The Goupil (French) illustrated monographs set an amazing standard to those of us accustomed only to seaside picture postcard quality.

With one exception, the remaining questions call for erudition rather than ideas—Tomkinson, Ransom: *Private presses and their books*, and the *Nonesuch century* (Q.5); Updike, McMurtrie (Q.7); Bowers, McKerrow, and Esdaile (Q.9) take one much of the distance. Q.3, however, should have delighted all with its scope for graphic comparison of developments in binding, type, paper, illustration and dust jackets—a question to test the book-lover, rather than the crammer. Background could be obtained from Mumby: *Publishing and bookselling*, or the National Book League's *Victorian fiction*. Not enough questions are set on the recent history of the book-trade, and if that is not in this part of the syllabus, I do not know where it belongs.

Both questions in Section A would have been more suitable for the Final examination, and the whole paper, for once, favours assistants in university or large reference libraries. Obviously QQ.2 (collation), 5 (private presses) and 9 (cancels) would draw much better answers from those few who actually handled the relevant material. If this is to represent the future standard of the Registration examination, the days of F.L.A.'s by correspondence courses are numbered. Few could answer this lower level paper with knowledge and judgment, without benefit of library school.

REGISTRATION: Assistance to Readers.

By L. M. PAYNE

On the whole a fair paper, and for once even those candidates whose opinion has been heard, had no complaint; and the syllabus was well covered. Some may have been surprised that the *Statesman's year-book* should figure in a Registration Paper; while others may think that 8(a),

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8(f) and 10(c) almost crossed the line into the Final examination. Nevertheless the student had a wide choice, and in Section A should have had no difficulty in using both his imagination and experience in discussing co-operation between the library and industry, and in discussing the value of, and showing his familiarity with periodicals in reference work.

Those who know the classes of publication excluded from the B.N.B. were half-way to answering Q.4, e.g., H.M.S.O. *Consolidated list* for complete list of government publications, C.B.L. for cheap novelettes, etc. Q.5 reversed the emphasis of a year ago, and called mainly for a knowledge of Parliamentary Papers. Chief difficulty probably lay in distinguishing between a Statute and Statutory Instrument, and in not confusing *Statutes Revised* with *Public General Acts*. The least familiar may well have been one of the series of reports on German Industries (British Intelligence Objectives Subcommittee). The Beveridge report on the B.B.C. and the Trade and Navigation Accounts would provide topical and standard illustrations of Command and House of Commons Papers respectively.

Q.6 ran: "Describe and criticise FOUR general subject indexes to periodicals." Three general subject indexes come readily to mind; the choice for the fourth would be one out of *Poole*, 19th century, or *Magazine subject index*. Criticism would concern delay in (or frequency of) publication, and subject and scope of periodicals indexed. Those students who had studied the O.S. handbooks on large, medium and small-scale maps were well equipped to answer Q.7. The following specialist bibliographies (general ones like C.B.I., and C.B.L., are therefore excluded) are suggested for Q.8:—

- (a) *Quarto editions of Shakespeare's plays* Jaggard.
- (b) *Books on British history of the 18th century* C. L. Grose or G. Davies, and Pargellis and Medley.
- (c) *Books and articles on French costume* Hiler (not Costume index).
- ((d) *Books on dentistry* Lewis's Catalogue, or Surgeon-General's.
- (e) *Recent books on the law of real property* Stevens.
- (f) *Books published by the Kelmscott Press* Tomkinson.

Questions (e.g., Q.9) asking for short notes on reference books are straightforward, except that care needs to be taken to avoid a repetition of the title in one's own words, and to shun vague phrases like "wide in scope," unless related to another work and/or subjects are carefully specified to give meaning to the phrase. It is helpful to have some form in mind not merely to give method to one's notes, but also as a pointer to important items, e.g., authority, scope, special features, etc.—reminding one of bibliographies (official as well as non-official publications) in *Statesman's year book*; *Directory of directors* complementary to the *Stock Exchange year book*, in that it serves as an index to the directors mentioned therein; fullness of the index to the *Oxford dictionary of quotations*. Questions of this type should represent easily earned marks.

Q.10 was interesting, especially for the way in which general encyclopedias are introduced. Continuous revision, loose-leaf encyclopaedias, and special year-books and periodicals seem relevant here; and in connection with Patents (Q.10(c)), their arrangement, frequency and form of publication, and indexes available should be mentioned.

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REGISTRATION: History of English Literature. By A. J. WALFORD

I have only praise for this paper. The questions, without an exception, dealt with major writers and major movements; in four cases alternatives were offered. The balance as regards both periods and literary forms was as scrupulously maintained as ever. In three questions the essay form was specifically asked for.

Q.2 asked for notes on three literary forms, the 5th century ballad; morality plays; and the Elizabethan sonnet. The limitation of the ballad to a particular century is less awkward than it would appear to be, for most of our folk ballads derive from the 15th century. Only a few, such as *Judas*, and the ballads of Robin Hood, belong to earlier centuries. There are several versions of some ballads, and it is interesting to note how, in the telling, ballads tended to shed extraneous elements, resulting in the simplest of narratives. The *Albatross book of living verse* has a section consisting of 20 ballads, with an admirable short introduction to them.

The development of the picaresque novel from Elizabethan times to the end of the 18th century (Q.5) should have as its highlights Nash's *The Unfortunate Traveller*, Defoe's *Moll Flanders* and *Colonel Jack* (at least), Fielding's *Jonathan Wild*, and Smollett's *Ferdinand*, *Count Fathom*. These novels strictly conform to the type; a number of others (such as *Joseph Andrews*) are also worthy of attention.

Q.6 called for an account of the writers who formed the Johnson Circle, more accurately termed the Literary Club. Its members included Johnson, Boswell, Goldsmith and Burke, as well as Garrick and Reynolds. Although Garrick dabbled in verse and Reynolds published his *Discourses*, we should concentrate on the four first named, who certainly have a sufficient number of works to offer.

Q.8, on outstanding biographies published in England between 1791 and 1918, should have delighted everyone, particularly those who have cultivated the chronological and form approach to English literature. We begin, auspiciously, with Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson* and close with Strachey's *Eminent Victorians*, which initiated a "debunking" vogue. In between, and for variety, we may cite Southey's *Nelson*, Lockhart's *Scott*, Carlyle's *Sterling*, Gaskell's *Brontë*, Forster's *Dickens*, Froude's *Carlyle*, and Morley's *Gladstone*. Such important co-operative efforts as the D.N.B. and the English Men of Letters Series should be mentioned.

"The passions were imperfectly known to her; she rejects a speaking acquaintanceship with the stormy sisterhood." In words such as these, Charlotte Brontë spoke of Jane Austen; they provide a useful theme for one aspect of Q.9, which asks for a comparison between the novels of these two writers. Characterisation, plot, dialogue and prose style, and background are the touch stones, and a representative novel of each (e.g., *Jane Eyre* and *Emma*) might profitably have been analysed to reinforce observations.

The first part of Q.10 had a somewhat embarrassing time-factor. The question ran: "Who were the leading contributors to the Celtic Revival in 20th century drama? Outline the course of the movement, mentioning the titles of the most important plays." W. B. Yeats's earliest plays belong to the 19th century, as do Edward Martyn's *The Heather field* and *Maeve*, strictly speaking. Nevertheless, the second part of the question allows for a

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broader interpretation. Synge, Yeats, Martyn, Lady Gregory, St. John Ervine, Denis Johnston and Sean O'Casey are the leading playwrights,—a rich gallery for a 30-minute answer.

FINAL: Bibliography and Book Selection.

By A. J. WALFORD

First Paper.

Q.1 (compulsory, double marks) is worth quoting: "Describe the ideal bibliographical apparatus for making the periodical article accessible. Give an account of an important example of each type of compilation that you mention." The range of bibliographies is the major issue. I suggest the following types of apparatus:

indexes to individual periodicals (check via *British T.P.I. List*; Faxon; Ireland; and Haskell).

general indexes to periodicals (*Subject index*; *International index*; *IBZ*). special indexes to periodicals (*Industrial arts index*; *P.A.I.S.*).

reading lists appended to articles in encyclopaedias, etc. (*D.N.B.*; *Enci. ital.*).

contents-listing publications (*D.S.I.R. Translated contents lists*; and in *Bulletin critique du livre*; etc.).

abstract journals.

card servicing (*Engineering index*).

general bibliographies of books and periodical articles (*Bibliographic Index*; Bohatta and Hodes).

library accession lists which include periodical articles (Science Museum).

home-made indexes; punched card techniques.

We have not yet made the article accessible. We may keep a modest vertical file of periodical cuttings of value, but the logical counterpart to the index of articles is the location list of periodicals, plus a directory of libraries. In the case of Gregory's *Union list* there is an indication of which libraries are prepared to lend, or provide photostats, or provide microfilms. Some indexing publications (e.g., *Bulletin analytique*) offer microfilms, etc., of articles listed.

Q.2 runs: "Write short accounts of any printed sources you would consult in order to ascertain which libraries specialize in a particular subject." Robert's *Introduction to reference books* (1948 ed.) covers the majority of directories of libraries. We may add Irwin's *Libraries of London*, the new Harrod, the forthcoming *Government libraries*, the *D.S.I.R. Brief guide* (April, 1951), and the articles in the *Journal of documentation* during recent years on co-operation generally (Staveley), medical libraries (Le Fanu), libraries on the fine arts (Collison), and London local collections (Raymond Smith).

Q.4 asks where one would search for material for reading lists on five topics.

- | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| (a) British anti-monopoly legislation and its functioning .. | Stevens. <i>Where to look for your law. Index to legal periodicals.</i> | } These may also be used for (a) |
| (b) the theory and practice of rent restriction | <i>P.A.I.S.</i> | |
| | <i>Subject index to periodicals.</i> | |

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- (c) the Van Meegeren forgeries of paintings
- (d) technical methods of increasing British coal production
- (e) Basic English and other universal languages.. .. .

Art index.

Fuel abstracts.

B.C.U.R.A. Bulletin.

Chambers's Encyclopaedia. Annual bibliography of English language and literature.

Bibliographic index.

"What are the advantages and disadvantages of the methods of reproduction available to produce an edition of 500 copies of 50-100 pages of typescript, bearing in mind their relative costs?" (Q.10). Page 8 of H.M. Treasury's *Machines and appliances in Government offices* provides a "reproduction chart" which is appropriate. Hectograph, stylo stencil, Duroprint, Gestefilm, off-set litho (photographically prepared and typeset) are the possibilities mentioned.

Second Paper.

Q1 (compulsory; double marks) asked: "How would you organize the selection of the material you would need for a comprehensive collection in any special subject field with which you are acquainted? . . . Quote examples of the sources you would use." The administrative side of book selection might well be disposed of first. The librarian will need to enlist the help of his staff and of experts in various fields, in addition to drawing on readers' suggestions. More important, here: what is the range of material in a comprehensive collection? It will vary with the subject, but we should certainly stress bibliographies, reference books, periodicals, Government publications, reports, theses, and the like. "Organization of selection" involves the systematic scanning of a variety of library catalogues and accession lists in the field, reviewing and abstracting journals, general and special bibliographies. "Comprehensive" suggests a use of national bibliographies and some recourse to foreign language material, at least.

Q.2 deals with policy governing multiplication of copies of a book in two of three types of library: public, private and special; university. Financial considerations; availability of other libraries; inter-loan and subscription—these points have a general bearing. Type of clientele to be served needs to be analysed in each case. In the public library service, departmental and branch requirements must be balanced; as the collection is general, the relative value and importance of subjects must be noted, as well as the relative value of the book itself as against other books in the field. Again, is public demand in a particular case merely ephemeral, or is it likely to grow? In the case of the private organisation, size of book stock may vary considerably; it may be large enough to house both loan and reference stocks. The university library stock is likely to run to six figures; coverage of college libraries, reference and loan collections, and types of clientele (undergraduate, research worker, teaching staff) are points to be considered.

Q.4 strikes at fundamentals. It runs: "What are the differences in the requirements of the elementary student, the advanced student, the research worker, and the general reader? Illustrate your answer by examples from

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any one important field of knowledge." The following table may help to differentiate:

Elementary student.

Introduction to subject by an authority; factual ..	Waters, C. M. <i>Economic history of England</i> ; Robertson, C. G. <i>Chatham and the British Empire</i> (Teach yourself history series).
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Advanced student.

Specialisation; documentary material, as published; monographs	Ensor, R. C. K. <i>England, 1870—1914</i> (Oxford history); Webster, C. <i>Foreign policy of Palmerston</i> ; Robertson, C. G. <i>Selected statutes, 1660—1832</i> .
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Research worker.

Specialisation in a field not previously covered; and unpublished and published sources	<i>British and foreign state papers</i> ; archives; private letters; <i>Parliamentary debates</i> ; legislation.
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General reader.

Interesting presentation; not too factual or erudite ..	Bryant, A. <i>The years of victory, 1802—1912</i> ; Churchill, W. S., <i>The Second World War</i> ; Guedalla, P., <i>The hundred years</i> .
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Some overlap is inevitable. Up to 1947 the Aslib *Book list* differentiated books of general interest from intermediate and advanced or specialised works.

Q.5 reads: "Describe the ways in which the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and its related research stations and associations disseminate the results of their work." Those who are acquainted with the D.S.I.R. *Brief guide to the research activities of the D.S.I.R. and the research associations* (April, 1951) have the answer there. The maintenance of technical information services (plus *Unanswered questions*), the publication of reports, and the regular issuing of abstracting journals (*Building science abstracts*, *Road abstracts*, and the like) should be well known. The medium for dissemination may be other than the printed word. *D.S.I.R. libraries*, 1951, No. 5, lists some D.S.I.R. sound films which are available on loan.

Q.6 continues the policy of probing ignorance of specialised organisations and their publications. The Patent Office, B.S.I., British Institute of Management, General Register Office, British Academy should have been acceptable enough, but the same may hardly have applied to the British Colour Council, Newcomen Society, and Dugdale Society.

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Books for Students

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. *The year's work in librarianship*. Volume XIV, 1947; edited by W. A. Munford. (L.A., 30s. (22s. 6d. to members)).

Mr. Munford is as mindful as any of us that the 1947 volume of *The year's work* is "sadly late." The ideal is obviously that this survey should appear in the year following the year covered, and eventually, no doubt, this objective will be reached. One cannot reasonably ask for several years to be reviewed together since this 1947 volume is half as large again as the 1946 volume. Even so, the sections on county and rural libraries, printing and illustration, and general and national bibliography have had to be carried forward to the 1948 number. There are no less than 900 references to books and articles in the footnotes, a testimony to the amount of research which has gone into the compilation of the individual chapters. On the other hand, the select book list limits itself to only 15 items. Is not Holmstrom's volume worth inclusion? What of some of the memorable bibliographies of the year, such as Parke or Cabeen?

The volume contains some admirable chapters. Roger Ellis's contribution on archives, 1939-47, is particularly valuable. Also noteworthy are the chapters on special libraries, national and university libraries, professional education, historical bibliography, and subject bibliography. A welcome change of policy in the case of the last-mentioned chapter is the mention of current annual volumes of some serial bibliographies. A little more space, but still only 14 pages, is allotted to classification and cataloguing. Finally, it is good to see the opportunity being given to new contributors of the calibre of Miss F. M. Birkett, Miss F. M. Green, Miss M. Piggott, and Miss H. M. Gummer.

A.J.W.

WILD, ELISABETH. *Visual aids in public libraries*. 1951. (James Clarke, 8s. 6d.).

This little book is attractively produced but is most disappointing in content. Too much is attempted in a small space and the literary style could be improved. Information which is intended to be a guide to practising librarians and students should be impeccable in its accuracy. The information in this book is certainly not. Some of this may be due to the work having been in the hands of the printer for a long time, but there seems no reason for not ensuring, *inter alia*, in the proof stage that the correct address of the Central Film Library is given.

The author writes from the point of view of a librarian serving with a County Library, and seldom if ever considers the approach to audio- and visual-aids (and she includes recorded sound in her field) by municipal librarians.

When dealing with film and film-strip equipment the author becomes very vague indeed and advises that "points to watch when buying a machine (*film strip projector*) are (a) gate mechanism; (b) quality of lens; (c) weight of machine; (d) light efficiency," but she does not say *what* should be looked for. It is most important, for example, to have some guide to standard of screen brilliance in foot-lamberts for single and double frame apertures at

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a given picture size. Her advice on screens is most misleading and the price quoted is ridiculous for a screen likely to be required in most public libraries.

There is no marked improvement when the author turns to sound films, for she seems to have relied on out-of-date information to a large extent and recommends that the Library Association should enter the visual aids field apparently unaware of the work already done by the A.A.L. When listing films suitable for the librarian and student librarian she omits many useful films including the A.A.L. film *Index to Progress*. In recommending certain theatrical productions for use in libraries she does not make any reference to the conditions which are likely to be imposed by the Film Industry in some areas. The many omissions and errors in this part of the book make it most unreliable.

A method of cataloguing visual aids and audio-visual aids of two and three dimensions is included with illustrations of forms and procedure based primarily on that of County Libraries.

One might expect a work for librarians to be authoritative and comprehensive in at least one thing—bibliography. The author omits many periodicals and books which should have found a place. There is at least one instance of a publication being attributed to the wrong source. There is no index.

The librarian who seeks reliable information on all aspects of visual aids will do well to use such works as Harris, *B.M.B. Material for visual education*, The "Daily Mail" *Visual Aids Year Book* and The "Film User" *Year Book*.

W.F.B.

WATSON, R. F. *Prison Libraries*. Library Association pamphlet No. 7. 1951. (L.A., 5s. (3s. 6d. to members)).

Although local authorities have been administering prison libraries in this country for the last ten years, and it is as long ago as 1936 that the Library Association appointed a committee to decide what assistance could be given to the Prison Commissioners, this is the first substantial professional contribution to the subject. Mr. Watson is a registered prison visitor as well as being a librarian, and he writes with obvious enthusiasm and sincerity. He traces in some detail the history of the provision of books for prisoners, and gives a very thorough survey of local authority participation in England and Wales, and a chapter on prison libraries abroad. This is exceedingly well done, and in comparison the scant treatment given to the more practical aspects of administration peculiar to prison libraries is disappointing. The many problems resulting from the conflict between the librarian's desire to make the prison library resemble an ordinary branch library as nearly as possible, and the requirements of prison discipline are barely mentioned. There is an almost accidental remark that "each man's number should be written on the label," but little else about routine.

We should like to know more about the training of prisoners and prison officers for library duties, the dispersal of book-stock due to having two or more separate libraries in one prison, the prison bindery, the reading tastes of women prisoners, and the librarian's relations with the prison staff, particularly the chaplain and education officer.

A.L.S.